

October 19, 2004

Sen. Craig,

I am Clyde Boatright, President of Aging and Adult Services, Region #1 Idaho.

I recently attended Governor Kempthorne's Conference on aging, "Living Longer Living Better", held in Boise. The conference lasted 2 1/2 days; the theme was "lose some weight, get some exercise" to help attain a longer, healthier life. There were only about 400 people present, most from southern Idaho; and I suspect that was because of the high cost of travel to Boise.

We need more opportunities to get Seniors together in large groups to let them know what is available to them in the way of services in our communities and how they and others, can assist with other families. More money would be nice so that we would not have waiting lists for services, but these gatherings need to be held in a short travel distance from the person's home.

The funds that are made available, both State & Federal, to this region are well allocated and used to their fullest value.

The staff here at the five Northern Counties are well-trained and dedicated to their job; they stretch every dollar as far as they possibly can.

We are doing our best to get seniors to think differently; NOT to think of the Senior Centers and Meal Sites as a place for Old Folks.



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